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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 002102

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [OTRA](#) [PREL](#) [SP](#) [OSCE](#)

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR US DELEGATION TO THE OSCE
CONFERENCE ON ANTI-SEMITISM AND OTHER FORMS OF INTOLERANCE

REF: SECSTATE 100397

1. Embassy warmly welcomes and grants country clearance to the following individuals: Governor George Pataki, Head of Delegation, Major Gary Berwick, Chairman Charles Gargano, David Catalfamo, Director of Communications, Salvatore Graven, Travel Aide, Jeffery Lovell, Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor, Michael Gragin, Executive Assistant to the governor for Jewish Affairs, Fabricio Plaskocinski, NYS Trooper. Governor's Detail, Henry Kanlong, NYS Trooper, Governor's Detail, Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, Public Member, Archbishop of Denver and Commissioner of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom, Mr. Sander Gerber, Public Member, Chairman and CEO of XTF Group and member of the National Board of Directors of AIPAC, Rabbi Marvin Hier, Public Member, Founder and Dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Rabbi David Zwiebel, Public Member, Executive Vice President for Government Affairs of Agadath Israel America, Ambassador Edward O'Donnell, Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, Mr. John Becker, EUR/OHI, Ms. Kari Johnstone, DRL/PHD, Ms. Heather Troutman, EUR/RPM, Michael Cromartie, USCIRF Chairman, Nina Shea USCIRF Commissioner, and Cathy Cosman USCIRF Staff Member, to travel to Madrid, Seville, and Cordoba, Spain from June 6-10, 2005. The purpose of this visit is to attend the OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance in Cordoba, Spain.

2. Per guidance from EUR/RPM Cordoba Conference Coordinator Heather Troutman, Embassy has made hotel reservations at the Hotel Conquistador, Calle Magistral Gonzalez Frances, 15, Cordoba (TEL: 34-957-481-102; FAX: 34-957-474-677) and the Hotel Melia Sevilla, Dr. Pedro de Castro, 1, Sevilla (TEL: 34-95-442-1511; FAX: 34-95- 442-1608). The Conquistador single room rate is EUR 166.27, breakfast and VAT included. Please note that the Conquistador rate is above the per diem allowance and that travel orders should authorize actual lodging expenses. The Melia Sevilla single room rate is EUR 90.95, breakfast and VAT included. The Melia Sevilla rate is within the per diem allowance.

3. Per guidance from EUR/RPM Conference Coordinator Heather Troutman, Embassy will rent one bus vice the two vans requested in reftel. One additional Embassy owned van will also be available to facilitate delegation movements.

4. Per reftel request, the June 7 no-host delegation dinner will be held at 2000 hours at the Los Marqueses Restaurant, Tomas Conde, 8, Cordoba (TEL: 34-957-202-094). Dinner cost will be EUR 50 per person, tax included. Restaurant requires guaranteed number of participants no later than June 3. Ms. Troutman will collect the requisite funds from participants prior to the meal and will pay EUR 50 per person based on the number reserved in advance (not withstanding later cancellations or no shows).

5. Hotel Control/Meeting room will be rented and configured per reftel request using a mix of Embassy and rental machines.

6. Visitors are reminded that bearers of diplomatic and official passports coming to Spain on official business need to obtain a Spanish visa prior to arrival to Spain.

7. THREAT ASSESSMENT:

In general, Spain is safe. However, Madrid, Barcelona and other large cities in Spain --including resort/convention areas such as Benidorm-- attract a large number of criminals and pickpockets and frequent incidents of crime of opportunity against the unwary do occur. Carry only essential items including a photocopy of your passport's photo page. Visitors can protect themselves against crime by being street-smart, alert and aware of their surroundings. In the event you are victimized by crime, or experience any security-related incident, please contact the Embassy's Regional Security Office at 91-587-2550 or after hours at 91-587-2355. Official visitors to the Embassy in Madrid or the Consulate General in Barcelona are encouraged to receive a security briefing from the RSO office at their earliest convenience. Additional information regarding safety and security in Spain is available on the U.S. Department of State's website (www.embusa.es).

Travelers are encouraged to review the most recent Worldwide

Caution issued by the Department of State. As the Department of State continues to develop information on any potential security threats to Americans overseas, it shares credible threat information through its Consular Information Program documents, available on the Internet at <http://travel.state.gov>. In addition to information on the Internet, U.S. travelers can hear recorded information by calling the Department of State in Washington, D.C. at 202-647-5225 from their touch-tone telephone, or receive information by automated telefax by dialing 202-647-3000 from their fax machine.

MANZANARES